

We claim:

1. In an Internet Protocol (IP) data network comprised of a plurality of interconnected IP data switching systems, a method comprised of:

- a. receiving at a first IP data switching system a plurality of IP data packets;
- b. tabulating at said first IP data switching system at least the number of IP data packets received from a particular IP source address during a first time interval, thereby forming a count of IP data packets from a particular source;
- c. storing said count of IP data packets in a memory device for subsequent processing.

2. The method of claim 1 further including the steps of:

- d. reading said count of IP data packets from said memory device;
- e. selectively discarding IP data packets received at said first IP data switching system that originated from said particular source.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said IP data switching system is an IP data router switching system.

4. The method of claim 2 wherein said step of selectively discarding IP data packets includes the step of denying reception of IP data packets from a router based upon a source address in IP data packets upon the determination that the count of IP data packets from a source address exceeds a threshold value.

5. In an Internet Protocol (IP) data network comprised of a plurality of interconnected IP data switching systems, a method comprised of:
- a. sending a plurality of IP data packets from a first IP data switching system to a second IP data switching system;
  - 5 b. tabulating at said first IP data switching system at least the number of IP data packets sent to a particular IP destination address during a first time interval, thereby forming a count of IP data packets sent to a particular IP destination address;
  - c. storing said count of IP data packets sent to a particular IP destination address in a memory device for subsequent processing.
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6. The method of claim 5 further including the steps of:
- d. reading said count of IP data packets from said memory device;
  - e. selectively inhibiting the transmission of IP data packets from said first IP data switching system to said second IP data switching system when the
  - 15 number of IP packets from said first IP data switching system exceeds a predetermined number.
7. The method of claim 5 wherein at least one of said first and second IP data switching systems is an IP data router switching system.
8. The method of claim 5 wherein said step of selectively inhibiting the
- 20 transmission of IP data packets includes the step of sending a message to a specific router to discard messages either received from or sent to a specific IP address.